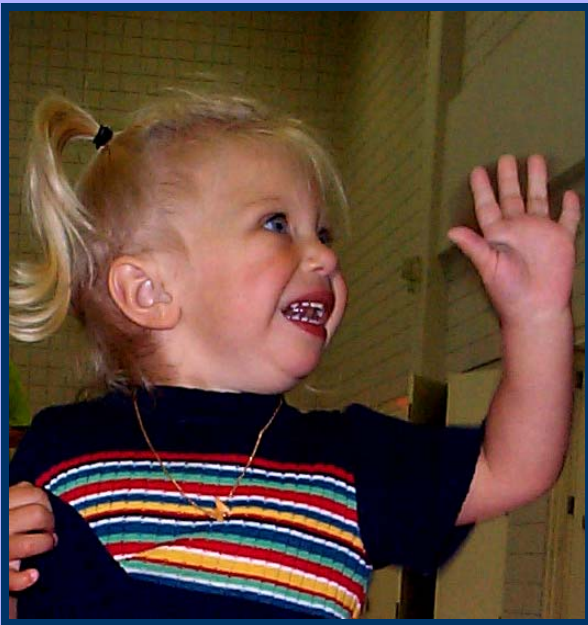


Module 9



Preparing the Path to a New Destination



Transitions in Early Intervention



It's the first day of school

The seasons are changing, and so is the life of your child.

The new clothes are bought.

The photo is snapped.

The backpack is loaded.

The forced smile is on your face to give your preschooler confidence.

The driver appears.

She takes the handles of the wheelchair, and whisks away the child who cannot tell about his day when he returns.

It's the first day of school.

~ Susan Addison ~



Change is challenging for all of us. For families of young children with disabilities, change can be even more demanding. Transition can be a positive experience with thoughtful planning, effective communication, positive attitudes, and a strong partnership between families and professionals.



Transitions occur throughout a family's time in early intervention. Transition planning begins with the development of the first program plan and continues as the child moves out of early intervention and into other services.

Although change is inevitable, transition from early intervention programming at age three presents unique challenges for families of young children with special needs.



Families often experience anxiety and express the following concerns:

- Who will take the place of my early intervention service coordinator?
- Will my child be eligible for services through the local school system?
- What happens if my child turns three during the summer?
- Will my child be able to adapt to new teachers and classmates?

Addison, S., and Bond, G. (September, 2004). *Early Intervention Matters: Transition-A New Path in the Journey*. Exceptional Parent Magazine. Psy-Ed Corp., River Edge, New Jersey.



- How will my child's medical needs be addressed?
- Will my child still receive the therapies he needs?
- What about transportation?
- How will I be involved in my child's educational plan?
- If my child is not eligible for special education services, what other options do I have?



Strong effective communication and partnership between families, early intervention professionals, and preschool special education professionals can address each of these concerns in a positive and productive way.



Addison, S., and Bond, G. (September, 2004). *Early Intervention Matters: Transition-A New Path in the Journey*. Exceptional Parent Magazine. Psy-Ed Corp., River Edge, New Jersey.



Before continuing, please complete the following activity as noted in *Roadmap for the Journey-A Trainer's Guide*:

9.1a View and discuss the short video vignette on transition from *Pathways in Early Intervention Service Coordination: A Video & Companion Guide*.

Then

9.1b View (slides 9-23) NECTC portion of this PowerPoint, *Opening Doors to Success-Transition Practices: What We Know and What We Need to Know*

and

9.1c Continue PowerPoint (slides 24-33) *Transition-A Multicultural Perspective*